



Feast of the Immaculate Conception.  
Sunday, December 8, 2013

# Catholic News



*The New Evangelisation:  
Praxis and Witness*  
Page 3

**MORE THAN 15 YEARS OF BRINGING THE  
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER**

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## Thousands Visit Exhibition

### *A very moving experience*

**S**t Barnabas Cathedral of Nottingham was very honoured to host the Shroud of Turin Exhibition during 27 October to 1 November 2013 which was opened with a prayer and blessing by Canon Geoffrey.

This unique and special event was visited by many people from the surrounding areas as well as coaches coming from Grimsby and Skegness (led by their shepherd Mgr Brian Dazeley) visitors from London, Manchester, North Wales and Lincoln. The week was extremely busy with many people from all denominations staying for the entire day. Everyone who came said how moved they were by what they had seen and experienced from the interesting talks and DVD presentations to actually being able to see a life size replica of the Shroud itself.

*Continued on  
page 2*



### CATHOLICS URGED TO TELL THEIR STORIES

Catholics whose lives and faith have been challenged by the Vatican's current teachings on contraception, homosexuality and access to communion for the divorced and remarried are being urged to share their experiences.

The John Wijngaards Catholic Research Centre's new website, [www.johnwijngaards.org](http://www.johnwijngaards.org), is providing an independent platform for Catholics in England and Wales to record their testimonies and contribute their views on morality and their faith.

Information and the personal stories of people affected by the Vatican's attitudes to issues of sexuality, sexual practices and divorce, will be made available to Church representatives ahead of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops focusing on the family in October 2014.

*Continued on page 7*



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The monthly paper for the  
Diocese of Nottingham

**The  
Catholic News**

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## Wanted Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a Parish Correspondent in your parish to send in local news for publication in this newspaper.

All items to be emailed to  
[john@bellcourtltd.co.uk](mailto:john@bellcourtltd.co.uk)  
before 10th of the month

# Extra-Ordinary Ministers Training Weekends

The Extra-Ordinary Ministers Formation Team have just concluded the three Annual Training weekends at Crich. Thanks especially to the 120 candidates from across the Diocese who participated and engaged with the weekend so well. Due to some unforeseen and unplanned extra maintenance work at the Briars we had to postpone our first weekend. Almost all who were booked in for this weekend were able to come later in the month. Our thanks to everyone for their understanding. This year the weekends therefore ran on consecutive weekends and as ever we were made to feel especially welcome by Fr John and the ever-cheerful team at the Diocesan Youth Centre. Each of the weekends were busy and uplifting in different ways, each culminating in a very appropriate sharing of Holy Mass together on the Sunday afternoon.

The weekends were also all slightly tinged with sadness this year as for various reasons, three of our experienced Formation Team members have given up their duties. Kevin Brennan (Oadby) has been responsible for our module on "Eucharistic Adoration" for many years amongst other duties, and was in fact our most senior active Team Member. Kevin has moved to be nearer his family and has left the Diocese as a result. Celia Bermingham (Bourne) is already very busy within the Commission of Extra-Ordinary Ministers and has therefore given up these additional commitments. Celia has been instrumental in organising the various liturgies for us over recent years, and also for championing the module on "Tools of the Trade". Finally Paul Smith (Our Lady, Lincoln) has been

with us the last two years and has been a great support across the entire programme. Paul is leaving to pursue further studies. We will miss Kevin, Celia and Paul at Crich but thank them very much for their support over their time with us.

Preparation is already well underway for next year!! In particular next year we are planning to offer a full "Youth Formation weekend" again as has been offered in the past in conjunction with the Youth Service. This weekend is particularly targeted at Sixth Form and Chaplaincy students and has been a great experience for all involved previously. More details will be sent out early next year. In addition this year we are continuing to develop a number of changes to the Formation Weekends, focused in part on adding more participation and interaction for candidates, and to continuing to incorporate the variety of training aids and



*The Touchy-Feel-y exhibition of useful and familiar things*

multi-media which is now available to us. We are always keen to hear from people who may wish to join the Formation Team, especially if you are already involved in education of any kind. If you are an experienced Extra-Ordinary Minister and are interested in sharing your knowledge and experience with others as a Trainer within the Team, please contact Damian ([Damian.norton@siemens.com](mailto:Damian.norton@siemens.com)) for more details. You can be assured of a warm welcome!

Damian Norton

### Continued from page 1

We wish to give a special thank you to Pam Moon, the curator of the Exhibition and to Brenda Benton her assistant who was able to explain certain aspects of Exhibition to many asking questions. The success of this Exhibition was Christ centred with collaborative efforts by committed volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents ensuring that all areas were well covered including brisk sales of gifts, record sales of the DVD of "the Shroud" and the Shroud booklet of the Exhibition. (if you missed out on your copies they can still be obtained from the Cathedral repository, please contact the parish office or [cbroodryk@aol.com](mailto:cbroodryk@aol.com))

The kitchen staff worked extremely hard catering to the needs of the thirsty travellers who stopped to linger over light refreshments. We were blessed to have committed helpers from the Good Shepherd Church as well, thank you. Our mem-

bers of the Evangelization team spoke to many visitors exploring the faith, handed out a lot of literature for further reflection, miraculous medals and rosaries keenly accepted as well.

It was encouraging to see shepherds amongst the sheep, Fr Victor Dakwan engaging with many and encouraging many to visit, Fr Robbie O'Callaghan helping out with much needed literature when supplies were running low, thank you! Fr Neil Peoples frequently made an appearance encouraging all and helping as needed.

In conjunction with the Exhibition the liturgical activities in the Cathedral drew many of the visitors as well- time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, many accessing the Sacrament of Reconciliation and great attendance at the Holy Mass of Sacrifice. The exhibition was closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace on this entire event. God bless you all.

## "Mother Mary" Christmas production 2013 COME AND SING ABBA SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Lots of people love singing songs by Abba and in particular from the musical "Mamma Mia". This Christmas, a group of 70 people (Aged 8-80) from Hinckley are coming together to present the Christmas Story in a new and innovative way, by singing these wonderful songs with different words, specially written for the occasion by a local lyricist. The show was presented in 2010 and 2011 and by public demand, it is being presented again this year. It is in fact a serious attempt to meditate on what Christmas has become and could yet be for so many people – a joyous, life-giving event for all of us – and was previously received enthusiastically by the chorus and audiences alike. It is being pre-

sented on December 19 and 23 at 7.30pm in St.Peter's Church, Leicester Rd., Hinckley (Tel.01455 634443) St.Mary's Church, Ashby Rd.,Loughborough on Friday December 20 at 7.30pm (Tel.01509 262123) and St.Barnabas' Cathedral, Derby Rd., Nottingham at 3.00pm on Sunday December 22 (Tel.0115 953 9839). Tickets are £4 for adults and £3 for concessions and the entire proceeds of the production will be donated to local charities. If you are interested in knowing more about the project or would like tickets please contact the above numbers or look at [www.stpetershinckley.org.uk](http://www.stpetershinckley.org.uk)  
More details from Fr.Frank Daly on 01455 634443

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# The New Evangelisation: Praxis and Witness



Dr Bullivant with Fr Andrew Cole, the University's Catholic Chaplain and Bishop Malcolm's Private Secretary.

On Wednesday 23rd October, the University of Nottingham Catholic Community welcomed an internationally-recognised scholar to speak on the New Evangelisation at their weekly 'Oasis'. Dr Stephen Bullivant is the Senior Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at St Mary's University College, Twickenham, whose work focuses on the theology of atheism and secularism from a Catholic perspective. Along with his wife Jo and daughter Grace, he regularly attends Sunday Mass at the University. To an audience of committed Catholic students, Dr Bullivant outlined the features of the New Evangelisation and its context in modern Britain. The novelty of the New Evangelisation is that it takes place in what Dr Bullivant described as a "post-Christian" context: modern Catholics are faced with the task of re-proclaiming the Gospel in historically Christian cultures which have been secularised in recent centuries. Citing new sociological research, which shows that almost a third of British people brought up as Catholic later self-identify as non-religious in adult life, Dr Bullivant explained that the Church's primary task of evangelisation is to 'stop the rot.' This is to be coupled with a modern, culturally-relevant presentation of the

Catholic faith to disillusioned believers and non-believers alike. In particular, he emphasised the role of Christian praxis, pointing to Pope Paul VI's exhortation that "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers" (Evangelii Nuntiandi 41). This evangelisation by example is as pertinent today as ever before; hence why exemplary figures such as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Oscar Romero, and (more recently) Pope Francis generate such feelings of popular devotion. One is reminded of the old adage that faith is 'caught not taught.'

Dr Bullivant also stressed the importance of being able to give "an account of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). In other words, Catholics must know what they are about. A sound knowledge of the faith and an ability to express this knowledge via language and means relevant to today's culture (e.g. social media streams) are pertinent to our missionary task. In this task, he encouraged the students not to be ashamed. As young Catholics in a university setting, we are often presented with tangible opportunities to witness to our faith, whether this be explaining why we bother to attend Mass on Sunday mornings rather than staying in bed, or simply justifying our choice of fish fingers at the university canteen on Fridays. At the conclusion of his talk, Dr Bullivant re-affirmed the students in their faith and showed solidarity by joining the community for a recitation of the Rosary. 'Oasis' is a weekly event run by the University of Nottingham Catholic Society. Mass on University Park campus is followed by a communal meal, catechesis, prayer, and socialising in Newman House, the chaplaincy residence in Beeston. For more information, please see our website:



Students reflect on an enlightening and challenging discussion.

http://www.catholic-community.org.uk or www.nottingham.ac.uk/chaplaincy. We're also on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/catholic-community) and Twitter (@UoNCatholic). Or why not join us for Sunday Mass, 11am in the Great Hall, Trent Building, University Park!

**Conor Gaffey, Lay Catholic Chaplain to the University of Nottingham**  
Photos by Michael Chee

## STRANGERS OR FRIENDS?

Do you want to know more about non-Christian faith communities and what they believe? Do you wish you were better informed about their worship and practice? Do you feel perhaps a little bit ill-at-ease in our multi-cultural society?

If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes, and you live within reasonably easy reach of Leicester, maybe St Philip's Centre is the place to turn to. We are an ecumenical organisation, though based in a former Anglican vicarage and our Director is an Anglican priest. We have three main aims.

The first is "church-facing", and its objective is to develop church members' knowledge of other faiths through learning experiences, including formal study, and personal contact. There's a six-week course entitled "Unfamiliar Journey" (including visits to mosques, gurdwaras etc), and one-off events like "A Taste of Faith" can also be arranged.

The second is "public-sector-facing", and among diverse activities, we are involved in Near Neighbours projects, in which people of different faiths work together in

small-scale local community ventures; also we provide "faith literacy" courses for the Police service, medical students from Leicester University, and local authority employees.

A third strand concerns Religious Education in schools and colleges. The world in which our children live at the moment may seem very different from that of city and large town children, but in years to come, at work or university, they may well be rubbing shoulders with Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims or members of some of the other traditions. "Faith practitioners" from several religious traditions go into schools as part of this work; it would be good to have some lay Catholics among them. Team members have been as far as a state school in Kirkby-in-Ashfield!

Some of you may be questioning the value of this, but if so, consider St Peter's response when called by God to the house of Cornelius.

You can get more information from the website: [www.stphilipscentre.co.uk](http://www.stphilipscentre.co.uk), or by phoning 0116 2733459.



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Pope Francis

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# Pastoral Care of Gypsy and Travellers

## *Travelling together or alone?*

*As I have previously written there is a small group of lay people who support Sister Bernadette who leads the Diocese in providing pastoral care to the Gypsy and Travelling Community; during the past year we have been involved in a range of activity which we would wish to share with you.*

In March, we came together to for a day to reflect on what we had been doing and to contemplate on our future, learning with our Traveller parishioners. The day was led by Sister Catherine and allowed us to reflect on our pastoral work to date as well as inspiring us for the future.

From February to October we have been engaged in working with families to prepare a number of the young people and children for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, as usually we hold an annual mass where the Bishops presides. However this year the celebrations have been many over the last few weeks as is detailed in the photos in Nottingham, Market Harborough and Leicester.

When I think of my journey over the last couple of years I agree that being involved in supporting pastoral care to the Travelling community, whilst daunting at times, has deepened my own faith and understanding of the Catholic Church putting faith into action.

One question I am always challenged by is how can the Catholic Church reach out and engage with the Traveller parishioners as in my parish we have masses led by those from different communities? Do we need to do things differently or do we need to consider how we engage people in our everyday activities?

Personally I think it is both; as I would not wish to cease the Annual Mass for the Travelling Community presided by the Bishop as this in the past years been a really great celebration with a real feel of faith and devotion both of Catholicism and



also aware that this may not be about the fact that the Parishioners are Travellers and that there is sometimes a level of anxiety about any people who don't conform to what we see as appropriate behaviour in Mass.

Further, the nature of travelling does not always mean that Travellers will be regularly at the same place every week and also some Travellers will go to Church where they feel comfortable and welcome so the question is how do we create and sustain such an approach? For many it is about being asked and encouraged – not just by the Parish Priest but by the wider congregation and those who may be involved in being part of the Mass celebration also it is about people like me supporting Travellers to feel that they can do more if they wish at Mass.



the culture of travelling. Similarly, this year where there have been local celebrations whilst lovely there is no sense of the culture of the Travelling community.

### No one ever asks us

I was reminded by a Traveller, "no one ever asks me to take part in the Mass," often the same people do the same things such as reading, taking the collection or offertory and we are stuck in a set pattern, yes I know we always ask people to come forward and I know that there is a need to be assured people are at the Mass to do things – but sometimes even when they are there week after week we overlook them or we never directly approach them. But I am

### Born again

A significant difficulty that many of the Travelling community know on a daily basis is that of being challenged about their faith, something that whilst living in house I may experience once a month when the door is knocked but not with the intensity I have recently seen.

Many of the sites, either privately run or run by the Local Council, have many travellers who have become Born Again Christians, one of their aims is then to convert everyone else. Often they approach younger members of their families or once converted they go over to homes/trailers where the wider family is and then attempt to convert them – this is quite intensive al-

most unforgiving dogmatic approach where there is no room for any religion other than Born Again. The other draw for the younger travellers is often there are social events and there is a sense of belonging which as discussed above may not be present in their local Catholic church as they may have not attended the secondary school or be involved in any activities as the church.

During the last two years I and the small number of volunteers have seen and expe-



rienced family life in the Travelling community, from the joy of birth and Sacramental celebrations to the sadness of loss and death. In Nottingham, Yvonne and Linda who volunteer outlined their experience in a recent talk at mass,

We didn't know what to expect when we first went on site, and while we can only speak for the people we've met, they certainly bore no resemblance to anything we'd seen or heard on the TV or in the media. We found several of our prejudices contradicted. There were no large dogs, the sites were clean and pleasant, and most of all we were welcomed.

The more visits we made, the more we were trusted by the travellers, and the more we learned about their way of life. Theirs is neither the romantic life of the horse-drawn caravan going from place to place, nor the disorder and violence of media stories. Bylaws prevent parking by

the side of the road so they stay mainly on the same site, although some families regularly go abroad to work for a few months at a time. Many now live in houses, but still maintain their traveller culture.

The travellers have many difficulties in their lives. Every time we visit it seems another relative is seriously ill or they have been to, or are going to a funeral. Life expectancy of travelling people is 10 years less than the national average. We have only met 2 people over the age of 70. And traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than the rest of the population to experience the death of a child.

### An invitation

Further, I have also witnessed the hostility and prejudice that is so familiar against this community, but what I have found is a strong sense of thankfulness and devoutness to their belief in spite of this situation. Here then is an invitation; one which I hope that in writing this piece may encourage you to think about what you could be involved with....

The needs of the travellers are many and great and the two big areas being pastoral care and catechetical preparation. In order to work with and meet these needs we would like to invite some more volunteers who would be interested in helping with the pastoral care and catechetical programmes of the Travelling people at the local sites and in houses. So could you regularly spare a few hours?

If you wish to discuss this in more detail, Sister Bernadette can be contacted at Saint Augustine's House 01159506693 and on 07783314968. Support and training will be offered to volunteers.

To conclude, as Yvonne and Linda reflected;

The welcome we have received from the travellers has been great - after all we were strangers going into their homes - and is typical of their warm hospitality. We have also been deeply moved by their faith - they are devoted to Mary and many of them have been on the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes several times, and often ask for prayers for the sick or bereaved.

I would ask for your intercessions and prayers to support the Travelling community and those involved in pastoral care as we all continue our journey in faith.

*Karen Scott.*



# There was not a witch or a ghost in sight

You may be forgiven in thinking you had the wrong night when you stepped into the hall of Our Lady of Lincoln On All Hallows Eve. There was not a witch or a ghost (except maybe a Holy one) in sight.

The children of the parish had come together to celebrate this very Holy night. Great effort had been put in and this was reflected in the many and various costumes. We were blessed to have Bishop Blaise, St Antony, Juan Diego, St Joseph, Mother Teresa, Gianna Molla the Blessed

virgin Mary and many others who put in an appearance. With games including musical saints, pin the halo on the saint, St Francis' pass the parcel and a hugely successful piñata the evening was full of fun and laughter. Hot dogs, toffee apples, stigmata sandwiches!! And lots of sweets were the order of the day. Everyone went home happy with one little one saying "this is the best church ever," now that's a nice endorsement if ever there was one.



## Octave Of Prayer Blessed Pope John Paul II



Canon Philip Ziomek initiated a wonderful octave of prayer, dedicated to Blessed John Paul II during 16 October- 22 October 2013 at the Good Shepherd church in Woodthorpe, Nottingham. There was a full liturgical programme (including afternoon and evening prayers, divine mercy chaplet, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) available in the church, a highlight was the veneration of a relic of blessed Pope John Paul II, an opportunity for veneration fol-

lowing all daily masses throughout the week. Evening prayer vigil was available, chance to light a candle and place prayer petitions on the sanctuary. Parishioners deepened their knowledge of Pope John Paul II by attending a viewing of a DVD showing: "Witness to Hope" a very informative documentary on his life, accompanied by light refreshments. We are all looking forward towards the forthcoming canonization of this wonderful servant of God.

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# The Church is for everyone

At the heart of Christianity is an invitation to the Lord's feast. That was Pope Francis' message at Mass on Tuesday morning at the Casa Santa Marta. The Pope said that the Church is "not only for good people;" the invitation to be a part of it concerns everyone. And he added that, at the Lord's feast we must "participate fully" and with everyone; we can't pick and choose. Christians, he said, can't be content with simply being on the guest list – not participating fully is like not joining in.

He emphasized that "first of all, the Christian essence is an invitation: we only become Christians if we are invited." It is a "free invitation" from God to participate. You can't pay to get into the feast, he warned: "either you are invited or you can't come in." If "in our conscience," he said, "we don't have this certainty of being invited" then "we haven't understood what a Christian is":

"A Christian is one who is invited. Invited to what? To a shop? To take a walk? The Lord wants to tell us something more: You are invited to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed, to the joy of sharing life with Christ. This is a joy! You are called to a party! A feast is a gathering of people who talk, laugh, celebrate, are happy together. I have never seen anyone party on their own. That would be boring, no? Opening the bottle of wine . . . That's not a feast, it's something else. You have to party with others, with the family, with friends, with those who've been invited, as I was invited. Being Christian means belonging, belonging to this body, to the people that have been invited to the feast: this is Christian belonging."

Turning to the Letter to the Romans, the Pope then affirmed that this feast is a "feast of unity." He underlined the fact that all are invited, "the good and the bad." And the first to be invited are the marginalized: "The Church is not the Church only for good people. Do we want to describe who belongs to the Church, to this feast? The sinners. All of us sinners are invited. At this point there is a community that has diverse gifts: one has the gift of prophecy, another of ministry, who teaching. . . We all have qualities and strengths. But each of us brings to the feast a common gift.

"Each of us is called to participate fully in the feast. Christian existence cannot be understood without this participation. 'I go to the feast, but I don't go beyond the antechamber, because I want to be only with the three or four people that I am familiar with. . . You can't do this in the Church! You either participate fully or you remain outside. You can't pick and choose: the Church is for everyone, beginning with those I've already mentioned, the most marginalized. It is everyone's Church!"

Speaking about the parable in which Jesus said some who were invited began to make excuses, Pope Francis said: "They don't accept the invitation! They say 'yes,' but their actions say 'no.'" These people, he said, "are Christians who are content to be on the guest list: chosen Christians." But, he warned, this is not sufficient, because if you don't participate you are not a Christian. "You were on the list," he said, but this isn't enough for salvation! This is the Church: to enter into the Church is a grace; to enter into the Church is an invitation." And this right, he added, cannot be purchased.

"To enter into the Church," he added, "is to become part of a community, the community of the Church. To enter into the

Church is to participate in all the virtues, the qualities that the Lord has given us in our service of one for the other." Pope Francis continued, "To enter into the Church means to be responsible for those things that the Lord asks of us." Ultimately, he said, "to enter into the Church is to enter into this People of God, in its journey towards eternity." No one, he warned, is the protagonist of the Church: but we have ONE, who has done everything. God "is the protagonist!" We are his followers . . . and "he who does not follow Him is the one who excuses himself" and does not go to the feast: The Lord is very generous. The Lord opens all doors. "The Lord also understands those who say to Him, 'No, Lord, I don't want to go to you.' He understands and is waiting for them, because He is merciful. But the Lord does not like those who say 'yes' and do the opposite; who pretend to thank Him for all the good things; who have good manners, but go their own way and do not follow the way of the Lord: those who always excuse themselves, those who do not know joy, who don't experience the joy of belonging.

"Let us ask the Lord for this grace of understanding: how beautiful it is to be invited to the feast, how beautiful it is to take part in it and to share one's qualities, how beautiful it is to be with Him and how wrong it is to dither between 'yes' and 'no,' to say 'yes,' but to be satisfied merely with being a nominal Christian."

# Recognition after 70 years

At last after 70 years, David Hill, had the honour to receive the Arctic Star medal presented by Commodore Slawson at this year's Trafalgar Day celebration dinner at Market Harborough Golf Club. David was only 16 when he joined the navy, a year too young to enlist but he said he was 17. He wanted to follow his five brothers into the services. He was the youngest crew member of HMS Starling, which was a modified Black Swan-class sloop of the Royal Navy. Able seaman Hill was trained as a gunner and helped to launch depth charges whilst his ship helped protect Arctic convoys to Russia. He with so many others braved those awful conditions to help our Russian allies, fighting on the Eastern front during the Second World War. David said, "I am accepting the Arctic Star not only for myself but for those who also served and who are not with us today. I am no hero but I remember those with whom I served in those difficult treacherous times."

David, who is now an 88 years old grandfather, has also applied for a Russian medal, for which he qualifies. His ship, HMS Starling, is credited with helping to



sink 14 U boats during the campaign in 1942 and 1943, when many men lost their lives in the icy waters of the Arctic. David Hill is a member of the Parish of Our Lady of Victories in Market Harborough and an active member of the Knights of St Columba. (Council 621 Province 9.)

## LOUGHBOROUGH CATENIANS VISIT HARVINGTON HALL

One of the events on Loughborough Catenians 2013 social calendar took them on a visit to Harvington Hall. The trip was inspired by a fascinating talk on 'Catholics in Elizabethan England' they had had at one of their meetings.

Harvington Hall is an impressive Elizabethan moated manor house situated in the small Worcestershire village of Harvington. As well as being an impressive house in its own right it is also a notable building in the history of Catholicism in England and boasts a large number of priest-hides that were built during the end of the 16th Century when it was high treason for a Catholic priest to be in England. The house fell into disrepair until it was purchased in 1920 by a benefactress who then donated it to the Archdiocese of Birmingham who still own and maintain it today.

The group were warmly greeted by a local Catenian and they then enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of the house and learnt a great deal about the hardships and bravery of Catholic priests and Catholic families during this period in history. Following an excellent lunch there was also an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful gardens and surroundings to the hall.

If you are ever in this part of the world be sure to include a visit to Harvington Hall – you won't be disappointed.

The Loughborough Catenians and their



families and friends meet socially on a regular basis with events designed to cater for all tastes and interests.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Catenians visit [www.thecatenians.co.uk](http://www.thecatenians.co.uk) and If you are interested in joining Loughborough Catenians please contact our membership officer Stewart

Jones on 01509 646598. We'd love to hear from you.

Please note the Market Harborough Clergy Night referred to on Page 5 of the November edition of the Catholic News was arranged by the Market Harborough Circle of The Catenian Association



# Liturgy Matters

## News from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission

# Annual Music Workshop A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

As mentioned briefly last month, the Commission are well underway with preparations for next year's Music Workshop, and we are delighted now to be able to advise the date and speaker so that you might save the date in your diary! Next year's Music Workshop (Make Music for the Lord) will be held on Saturday 21st June at Holy Trinity Centre, Newark. It will be led by Tim Harrison. Tim previously taught music at Ushaw College and is now the Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music for Middlesbrough Diocese. You can find out more about Tim at [middlesbroughrccathedral.org/people/director-of-music](http://middlesbroughrccathedral.org/people/director-of-music) or <https://sites.google.com/site/timothy-craigharrison/> (NB: don't confuse with the Canadian musician of the same name). More detail of the programme will come in the New Year, but for now please take note of the date and please do share it with other musicians in your Parish. As ever the Music Day will include an assortment of new music, opportunities for singing, and we hope again to have up-to-date resources available for purchase on the day.

### Christmas Resources for Choirs

As you will have read elsewhere, NDLC Member Tony Wheat has recently published "A Quartet for Christmas", a collection of four original carols for four-part choir. These are available from Tony (via email at [wheatmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:wheatmusic@yahoo.com)) at a cost of £5.00.

### Liturgical Commission Team

The Liturgy Commission includes both Priests and Lay People from across the Diocese. The current membership is :-  
The Bishop (ex officio)  
The Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation & Mission (ex officio)  
Rev Paul Chipchase VF (Chair) [fr-paulchipchase@googlemail.com](mailto:fr-paulchipchase@googlemail.com)  
Rev Alex Adkins VF (Secretary) [sec@nr-cdlc.org.uk](mailto:sec@nr-cdlc.org.uk)  
Rev Andrew Cole  
Mrs Karen Foong  
Ms Barbara Hopper  
Rev Philip McBrien  
Mr Damian Norton  
Mrs Julia Palmer  
Mrs Margaret Smidowicz  
Mr Tony Wheat  
The Commission are always happy to hear from people within the Diocese. Pos-



sibly you have a question you would like to raise, or have some other information that you would like to be considered for inclusion in our pages. Please feel wel-

come to email us ([sec@nr-cdlc.org.uk](mailto:sec@nr-cdlc.org.uk)) with the details.

**Damian Norton**  
NDLC

### Continued from page 1

The aim of the Synod of Bishops has been described as addressing the serious challenges of the social and spiritual crisis in today's world. The Bishops have set a deadline of December 6 for canvassing views on many of the key issues including sexuality, contraception and access to communion. Leading campaigners for modernising Church attitudes to these hot topics believe that the short research deadline is arbitrary and will stifle debate. John Wijngaards, a Catholic Scholar, author and director of an international faith formation centre charity, is heading the JW Catholic Research Centre team. He said: "These are key issues affecting and blighting so many people's lives. Their voices need to be heard and given the proper attention they deserve. "Setting a deadline of December 6 is inadequate and wholly unnecessary if the Church and its Bishops are really serious about addressing these fundamental topics."

"Our new website is offering an independent platform for Catholics to tell the Bishops the effect on real lives of Church teachings on sex and morality. "These teachings are based on a misguided interpretation of natural law which was nurtured by medieval theologians. They are flawed and should have no place in a 21st century Catholic Church. "This is a rare opportunity for us all to work towards reforming the Church's position on morality which is currently alienating millions of Catholics and causing untold guilt, misery and confusion." Miriam Duignan, an active campaigner for Church reform and a member of the JW Catholic Research Centre team, said: "These are important issues for us all. But they are particularly significant for younger Catholics many of whom find themselves very much at odds with current Church teachings and have great difficulty in reconciling their faith with the Vatican's attitudes to contraception and homosexuality."

## Consecration of the world to Our Lady

The Good Shepherd Church in Woodthorpe, Nottingham encouraged her parishioners on 12 October to gather in The Lady Chapel to join with other worshippers in Marian Shrines world wide to recite the rosary together in preparation for the consecration of the world to Our Blessed Lady, in response from Pope Francis call. It was well at-



tended with overflow into the main church. Thank you to all who gave generously of their time and prayers to this most worthy initiative.

**Retired priests appeal website**  
**[www.retiredpriestsappeal.com](http://www.retiredpriestsappeal.com)**  
**Please visit our website**

It can be reached on the above address or via a link on the diocesan website. Already it has useful information and it is our intention to not only provide progress reports but more detailed information which is simply too big to include in our ordinary material. Suggestions for material to post are welcome and can be sent to the appeal office ([srpfappeal@nr-cdt.org.uk](mailto:srpfappeal@nr-cdt.org.uk)).



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**The Little Company of Mary**

The Mission continues today in many parts of the world and God is still calling, be attentive to him, he may be calling you FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR MISSION VISIT US AT 588 Radford Road, Nottingham NG7 7EX or contact: Sr. Eileen Lyons on Nottingham 0115 979 1088 [www.lcmglobal.org](http://www.lcmglobal.org)

# “Doing Christmas Differently” AlterNativity 2013

Before very long the ‘Christmas enterprise’ will be under way and we will find ourselves racking our brains and looking hard at our finances when choosing what to buy for people we care about. What makes it especially hard is that most people seem to have all they want or need, particularly our elderly relatives, who don’t eat or drink very much and have got all the pictures, nick-nacks and gadgets they can cope with. Yet we still want to show them we love them and to express it in a tangible form. This is why the AlterNativity project, which has been running in Hinckley for the past seven years is so helpful. There is an ‘event’ and a mail order service for customers and the idea is that you buy a present for someone you love and give it to someone who actually needs it, thus solving your Christmas present problem and helping people in real need all at once. This year, the AlterNativity organisers, who have raised £70,000 in this way since it began, are proposing a selection of ‘gifts’ ranging from a baby pack for new-born babies in Leicester Royal Hospital, to bedding for homeless people, hampers for families with little chance of a Christmas treat through the local Foodbank as well as some ‘international’ gifts such as educational equipment, cleft palate surgery or medication for people in Africa, and Asia. The price range is £2-£20, and once you have purchased your gift, you send a card with its details to someone you care about and the money goes to the charity. At the AlterNativity event, which takes place at The United Reformed Church in



the Borough, Hinckley on Saturday November 9 from 10.00-2.00pm, representatives of the 20 charities involved this year will be present to explain the work they do, and you will be able to come and do your Christmas shopping in a nice atmosphere.

For those unable to come, the mail order facility is open until December 5 and order forms and catalogues may be obtained from St.Peter’s Priory, Leicester Road, Hinckley, LE10 1LW (Tel.01455-634443) or on line from [www.hinckley-alternativity.org.uk](http://www.hinckley-alternativity.org.uk)

**FRANKLY SPEAKING**

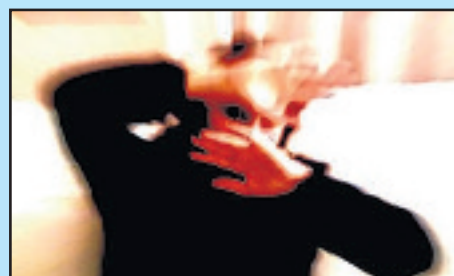
## Britain is afflicted by a hidden violence on its poorest citizens



"Britain is afflicted by a hidden violence on its poorest citizens that is in danger of destroying society." This strong warning was recently given by the highly respected former master of the Dominicans Father Timothy Radcliffe.

Speaking at Westminster Abbey to a distinguished audience Father Radcliffe added that we need to "open our eyes" to this issue. I noted that his words came just a few days after The Archbishop of Westminster and the Anglican Bishop of London had met to pray in the Tower of London cell occupied by Saint Thomas More prior to his martyrdom in 1535. I understand the Anglican church has regarded Thomas More as a saint since 1980 and the Archbishop and Bishop were keen to rejoice that many wounds dividing Catholics and Anglicans have been healed and they prayed that our "Unity may be deepened."

Although Thomas More and Timothy Radcliffe lived about 500 years apart they both felt the need to speak out on the great issues of their day, indeed Fr Radcliffe was speaking to the Archbishop Romero lecture to an audience of 600 as he spoke of the Archbishops' commitment



to the poor of El Salvador. Britain today may not be the El-Salvador of Archbishop Romero's time but Fr Radcliffe was surely right to say that people should respect "the dignity of the marginalised" and to speak of their "courage", he clearly was concerned by the description of "skivers and parasites". Are we now needing more public figures to not only speak out on behalf of the poor but also on the issue of Europe and immigration? Around the time of Fr Radcliffe's lecture the National Institute for Economic and Social Research suggested that employers hire foreigners because they work harder and are better qualified. This rather revealing study spoke of recruiting from outside the UK which had "allowed employers to fill skilled and specialist

roles and enabled some organisations to expand". The issue of foreign nationals and our membership of the European Union is closely linked and perhaps it will take a brave politician to speak up for both. The recent CBI Conference like Fr Radcliffe's lecture was never going to make big headlines but the Confederation of British Industries has made a strong case for Britain to stay in Europe their president stating that British business needed EU membership. The Prime Minister wants to stay in Europe but feels "A lot of things in the EU badly need reform", he may well be right Fr Radcliffe certainly was.

As we start Advent and the "Year of Faith" comes to a close we should be grateful to all who have worked so hard during this momentous year to ensure the Christian message is not lost to those who need it most. It can be difficult to understand all the issues which we will face in 2014 but we should pray that our leaders will continue to serve us well and speak out when we need them to.

**Frank Goulding**  
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

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# “What a truly inspiring day”



“What a truly inspiring day” was one of the many comments made after a very successful Ladies day held at Our Lady of Lincoln parish. The retreat day was led by the Franciscan sisters of the Renewal who had travelled from Leeds to be with the ladies. After starting the day with Mass, a wonderful presentation was given on the great gift of authentic femininity, and how to live it out in the world. This led to much discussion when the ladies split into their discussion groups. There was a lot of laughter and some deeply inspired sharing as the women opened up and shared their experiences of trying to live out the feminine

ideal. After a picnic lunch, a second talk entitled “Reclaiming the ideal, feminine flaws and womanly virtues,” gave the ladies a greater understanding of Gods original design for them, and what was lost by Eve, and reclaimed by Our Lady. Again, afterwards there was an opportunity to sit together and reflect on the content of these very powerful presentations. Each lady was presented with a prayer journal, and a time of quiet in front of the Blessed Sacrament gave them an opportunity to write down their thoughts and prayers. This was followed by a Holy hour

in which the Sisters led everyone in adoration of Our Lord. As the day drew to a close Fr. Colin Taylor, parish priest at Our Ladies led a healing service and gave Benediction, this was a highlight for many of the women who had never experienced anything like it.” It was so moving” and “I truly felt the presence of God” were just some of the comments. While the ladies were in Church a small band of men had moved into the hall and transformed it. They then prepared and served dinner which was a most welcome end to a truly inspiring day!

## Nano Nagle Declared Venerable

### Congregation

*The Presentation Sisters around the world and all those involved with them are today celebrating the official announcement of the declaration of the Order's founder, Nano Nagle, as Venerable. This announcement brings the Canonisation of Nano Nagle one step closer as it is the second of four stages in the Canonisation Process.*

Speaking today, Head of the Congregation Leadership Team for the Presentation Sisters, Mary Deane, said: “We are delighted with the news. By proclaiming Nano Nagle as venerable, the Universal Church has recognised Nano as a woman of Faith, hope and heroic virtue whose vision and work transformed the lives of so many. For our Sisters, Associates and Friends of Nano throughout the world, Nano has been and continues to be a source of inspiration and challenge as we respond to the needs of today in fidelity to the Gospel and in the spirit of Nano.”

A celebratory Mass to mark the announcement took place in Cork in November and a series of smaller events will take place across Ireland and in Presentation Congregation areas across the world to mark the occasion.

Nano Nagle was born Honora Nagle in Ballygriffin in Cork in 1718, a turbulent time in Irish history due to the Penal Laws. The

Nagle family was a wealthy Catholic family and Nano had the benefit of a European education and privileged lifestyle. She devoted her life to God and to working with people on the margins of society. Nano Nagle is one of the great pioneers of Catholic education in Ireland.

Her mission of educating the poor began in a ‘little school’ in Cove Lane in Cork in 1754. In setting up schools in defiance of the established colonial order she sided with those made poor and challenged the institutional injustice that perpetuated marginalisation and poverty. Nano responded to the needs of her time and developed an educational curriculum suitable to the individual capabilities of her students. Hers was a global vision as in 1769 she wrote to a friend: “For I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service to a great many parts of the world – this is a place of such trade – they heard of, and my views are not for one object alone. If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would be willing to do all in my power.”

Nano’s words proved to be prophetic as her efforts led to the introduction of a network of schools across Ireland and the world. She founded the congregation later known as the Presentation Sisters on Christmas Eve 1775, the culmination of 20 years of a life of devotion to the cause of improving



the circumstances of others. She died in Cork in 1784 and is buried in the grounds of South Presentation Convent in Cork city in a location which has become a place of prayer and pilgrimage in her honour. To this day Presentation Sisters and friends of Nano remain committed to working with those most in need through a broad range of ministries. Those ministries include spirituality and faith development, lifelong learning and innovation, social finance, social inclusion and outreach, human rights and justice, ecology and sustainable living and healthcare projects.

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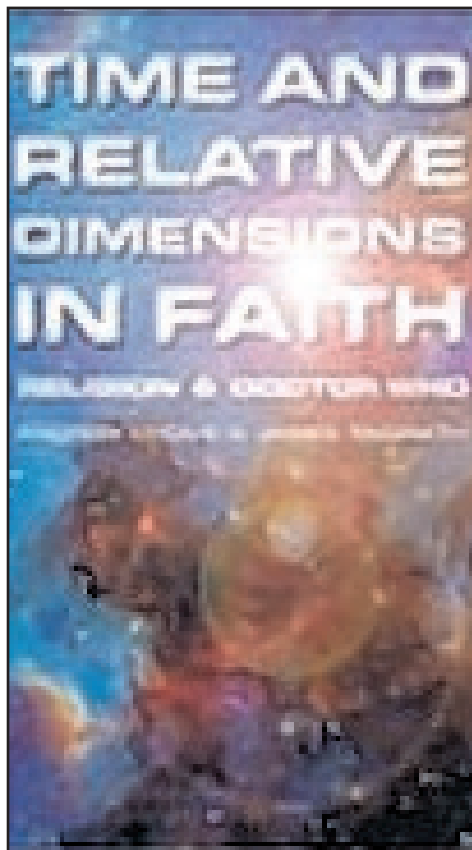
## Book Reviews

### Religion and Dr Who

Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith: Religion & Doctor Who, a forthcoming new book from Darton Longman & Todd, examines in depth for the first time, the interaction between religion and Doctor Who over its 50 year lifespan, considering both religious themes on the show and the way in which religious organisations have made use of the programme. A collection of essays written in a scholarly yet accessible style, the book brings together academics working in History, Film, Theology, Sociology, Law and Anthropology to consider the many ways in which religion and Doctor Who have interacted.

The first half of the book contains chapters looking at the way religious themes have been used throughout the show's lifespan, from the question of immortality, to changing uses of the concept of fate; from the portrayal of Buddhism to the Doctor's continued challenges to "false Gods". The second half of the book turns its attention to Doctor Who in the wider world. How has the show represented the changing face of British religion? And to what extent could Doctor Who fandom be considered a religion?

Indeed, since its return in 2005 Doctor Who has been nominated for a US 'Epiphany Award' by Evangelical Christians, featured a guest appearance by Richard Dawkins, and served as the basis of a Church of England conference on using the show in evan-



gelism. All of this underlines the importance of religious themes in the seminal series.

**Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith: Religion & Doctor Who**  
edited by Andrew Crome & James McGrath. Published by Darton, Longman & Todd  
978 0232 53021 6 £14.99  
Published: 29 October 2013

### Mary in the Mystery

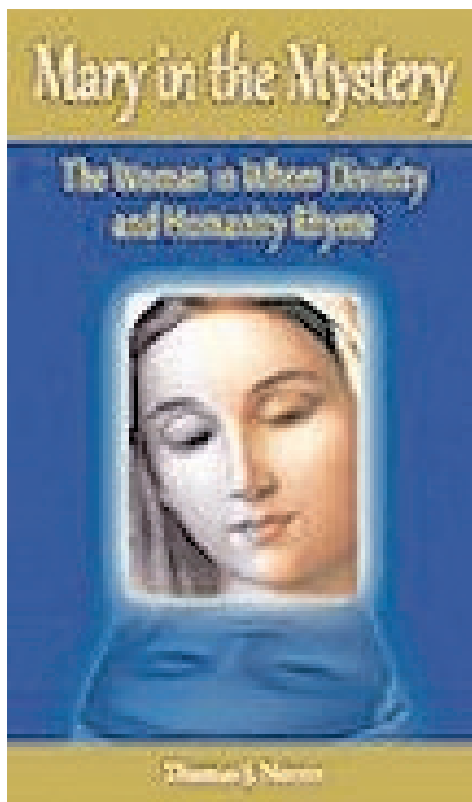
In 'Mary in the Mystery' theologian Thomas J Norris beautifully articulates the nature of Mary Mother of God as "the woman in whom divinity and humanity rhyme".

Norris brings Mary to life as a woman deeply steeped in awareness of the Old Testament. He expresses her as the meeting point between Salvation history (the story of Abraham and the God of Israel) and the Christian Mystery born through Christ.

In a simple yet richly developed structure of three parts, Norris places Christ, and by extension Mary, within mankind's search for answers to the human heart and mind. He describes how Man and God are "searching" for each other, as portrayed in the call out of Egypt. Norris writes that God and Man are two partners in dialogue with one another. The dialogue reaches its fulfilment in Mary and the Incarnation, where God makes his "final move".

In the second part of the book, Norris looks at "the adventure of Mary, her own unique spirituality". He describes how Mary is "wrapped in the Word" and how she is the greatest "hearer and doer of the Word", standing before the God of Israel with an attitude of total readiness. Always ready to do His will, Mary enables God to carry out a "gathering into unity of the scattered children of God" (Jn 11:52). At the foot of the cross God is able to form His family of the children of God when Jesus gives Mary to John as his mother and then John to Mary as her son.

This idea is extended in the third chapter where Norris describes Mary's entry into the mission of Christ and his Church. At the foot of the cross Mary receives her mission of "second motherhood" writes Norris. She "now receives her mission of a motherhood set into the communion of the Church. The Son puts her forward to the



point of appointing her Mother of all the redeemed".

This beautiful and concise book explains the context around Catholic Mariology. It draws from Scripture, theology and poetry to firmly identify why Mary is exalted in Catholic doctrine. It provides a very optimistic look at the Mother of God, recognising that our understanding of her is unfolding and revealed, rather than fixed and static.

Through the depths of revelation and the history of the Church, Norris confidently and inspiringly explains the importance and sanctity of Mary in the communion of the Church.

'Mary in the Mystery' by Thomas J Norris is published by New City Press and available online at <http://www.newcitypress.com/mary-in-the-mystery.html>

### I Am With You - Scripture reflections for couples

I Am With You (Cycle A, B and C) is an exciting box set of Scripture reflections for couples that aids listening to God and each other through reflections on the Bible.

These books focusing on the question: what are these readings saying to me or us about our relationship, offers those who believe in the power of prayer and the Word of God, a blessed resource that can speak right into the heart of their love for one another!

Fr Daniel O'Leary, Priest of the Diocese of Leeds, author, theologian, and international speaker, said: "Human love is God's love in disguise. God is worshipped in the most ordinary and extraordinary moments of married life. All such moments are full of grace. But too often we fail to recognise God's presence in each other. We forget the astonishing meaning of the Incarnation. Friendship, love and marriage are sacred because they call out our deepest and most authentic humanity - a humanity that is made in God's image. "Because of their hard but loving experiences, the authors of 'I am with You' write with a unique honesty. Each page offers wise ways of recovering, sustaining and increasing intimacy in marriage - unconditionally. And whatever resource values, purifies and deepens human loving, reveals, at the same time, something of the divine love that lives at the heart of every marriage."

Bishop John Hine, responsible for Marriage & Family Life for the Bishops Conference of England & Wales, said: "I am more than happy to recommend this book which will be a most helpful resource to



couples who are looking for a way to strengthen their relationship as husband and wife.... it could help them to focus the light of God's Word on their relationship and help them to see the 'extraordinary in the ordinary' ".

Geoff & Gina Poulter, Directors of the Catholic Bible School commended Book A, saying: "A truly wonderful and deeply thought provoking book that will be an excellent tool for those couples who pray together and want to link into the Sunday readings of the Catholic Church. Written and compiled by couples for couples...couples who obviously 'practice what they preach'. Highly recommended; after all as it is said 'those who pray together - stay together' ".

"Any resource promoting Christian marriage and family life is very welcome. This appealing book combines simplicity with depth, and could be of great and lasting value to couples and families of any Christian tradition," said Tony Castle, Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Brentwood and writer.

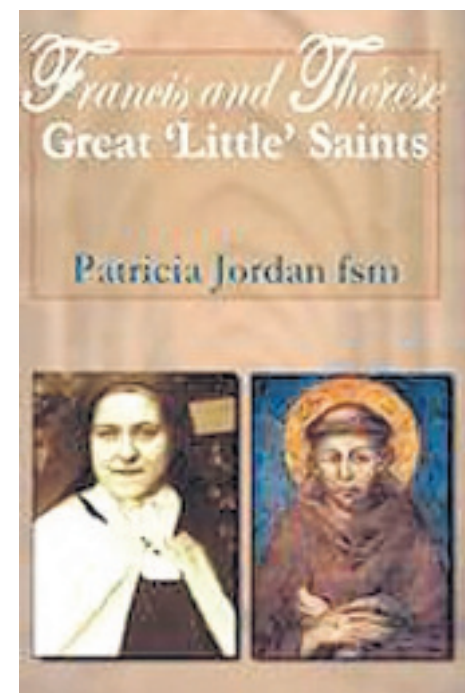
I Am With You (Years A, B and C) is published by MacCrimmons. ISBN: TF-IAWY-B. For more information or to order the books see: <http://www.mccrimmons.com/product/417/1897>

### Francis and Thérèse Great "Little" Saints

God, the Almighty, chose for himself as the place of his appearance what was the very smallest and most insignificant, a wretched stable in Bethlehem.

When asked to comment on this, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger commented: "...it is a fact that the choice of "little things" and "little people" is characteristic of God's dealings with humanity. Francis and Thérèse Great "Little" Saints expresses how this "characteristic of God's dealings" with men and women is at the heart of the spiritual life of Francis of Assisi and Thérèse of Lisieux. If Baptism plunges us into the Paschal Mystery of Christ, this man of the thirteenth century and this woman of the nineteenth expressed its energy of dying to self and rising to life in Christ through a path of littleness. The pursuit of growing in an awareness of being little, of focusing on the little people, the little things, and the little actions of daily life! The challenge of being lesser before others as we are before God! Such is the energy of Francis and Thérèse that needs to be revitalized so that the hands of those of us in the twenty-first century may join theirs in making the world a new Bethlehem.

Patricia Jordan is a Franciscan Sister Missionary, and author of An Affair of the



Heart: A Biblical and Franciscan Journey and Come Apart and Rest Awhile, both published by Gracewing.

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TELEPHONE 01509 212204

## **SAINT ALBANS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

NEWSTEAD AVENUE,  
CHADDESSEN, DERBY  
DE21 6NU  
HEADTEACHER MR M BOOTON  
TELEPHONE 01332 673823

## **THE TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

BEECHDALE ROAD, ASPLEY,  
NOTTS NG8 3EZ  
HEADTEACHER  
MR M MCKEEVER  
TELEPHONE 0115 929 6251

## **THE PRIORY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

RAGLAN STREET, EASTWOOD,  
NOTTS NG16 3GT  
HEADTEACHER  
MR A HARRISON  
TELEPHONE 01773 713731

## **CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

FIRS AVENUE, ALFRETON,  
DERBYS DE55 7EN  
HEADTEACHER  
MRS CARRAZEDO  
TELEPHONE:01773 832919

## **ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

ALVASTON STREET, ALVASTON,  
DERBY DE24 0PA  
HEADTEACHER DR E FIELD  
TELEPHONE 01332 572154

## **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**



CHESTERFIELD ROAD,  
MATLOCK DE4 3FT  
HEADTEACHER PAUL SCULLY  
TELEPHONE 01629 583616  
ADVENT SERVICE MONDAY  
16TH DECEMBER IN OUR LADY AND  
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH AT 7PM

## **OUR LADY AND SAINT EDWARD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

GORDON ROAD, NOTTINGHAM  
HEADTEACHER MRS M DALES  
TELEPHONE 0115 9155800

## **SAINT PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL**

LING FOREST ROAD, MANS-  
FIELD NG18 3NJ  
HEADTEACHER MR FIDLER  
TELEPHONE 01623 478090

## **SAINT THOMAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CHURCH VIEW, ALLENDALE,  
ILKESTON, DERBY DE7 4LF  
HEADTEACHER MR GERAGHTY  
TELEPHONE 0115 932 0550

## **SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

HASTINGS STREET,  
LOUGHBOROUGH,  
LEICS LE11 0AX  
HEADTEACHER MRS CAVANAGH  
TELEPHONE 01509 212621



## Impero teams with Our Lady's Convent School to Combat Cyberbullying

Impero have worked in partnership with Our Lady's Convent School, Loughborough, to develop a keyword detection library as part of its network management software solution, Impero Education Pro. Members of the School's student council gave up their lunchtimes to create a list of keywords and phrases most likely to be used to facilitate bullying online.



The list of keywords and phrases formulated by students at the School has been used to assist Impero's research into e-safety development, enabling the software company to develop an extensive keyword detection library. The students, who ranged from 11-18 in age, were able to provide a vivid insight into commonly used text speak, jargon and slang terms, of which Impero was previously unaware. Keywords and phrases which students believed victims may use in retaliation to cyberbullying were also considered. This information has proved invaluable in the development of the detection library, which will now highlight hundreds of keywords and phrases related to online bullying. The new addition, which falls under Impero's e-safety feature, consists of various keywords, phrases and acronyms most likely to suggest bullying behaviour. A glossary providing a definition of each term ensures

educational staff understand the nature of a potential violation when these keywords are typed by a student, then captured and highlighted by Impero Education Pro. A new 'confide' button has also been developed, enabling students to confidentially raise a bullying concern, anonymously, with a member of a staff. Although it is important to embrace the opportunities technology in education can afford, it is equally vital to ensure students behave appropriately and remain safe in the digital classroom. Impero believed it was important to consider a girls' school perspective on keywords and phrases used to bully online, as this may differ from mixed education. The collaboration between Impero and Our Lady's Convent School has supplied a wealth of knowledge to proactively combat the issue of cyberbullying in schools.

## Great Results at Grace Dieu!



Grace Dieu Manor School has always had a reputation for high achieving pupils and 2013 has confirmed this once again. The Key Stage 2 results have been record breaking, easily exceeding the expectation of the National Average.

All Year 6 pupils achieved a Level 4 or 5 in their Reading Tests and 86% achieved Level 4 or 5 in their Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling Tests. Pupils scored similarly well in Mathematics. All Year 6 pupils gained a Level 4, 5 or 6, with one pupil scoring 100% on the Level 3-5 paper. Three pupils secured a Level 6 in Mathematics – an exceptional achievement. Once again, Year 8 pupils performed outstandingly well in their senior school entry tests, and destination schools for Grace Dieu's 13 year olds in 2013 included Ratcliffe College, Derby Grammar School, Loughborough Grammar and High Schools, Trent College and Repton School.

## Catholic Church in England and Wales finds new and dynamic ways to spread the Gospel message

A breadth of innovative evangelisation initiatives being offered in Catholic dioceses in England and Wales has been showcased at a national gathering.

Representatives from dioceses covering every region, as well as the Ordinariate and the Bishopric of the Forces, gathered on 4 – 5th November for 24 hours at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire. The first time an event of this kind has been offered in living memory, the programme included times of prayer, fellowship and sharing news and information about work being done in support of Home Mission.

Julia Palmer, who is the advisor for the Adult Formation Commission in Nottingham Diocese attended and she told our reporter, "It was really exciting to be part of this group and to reflect on this very important issue of evangelisation."

A snapshot of the projects currently being offered and developed in dioceses includes: a new formation and mission centre in Cardiff; new resources to support family-focused evangelisation in Liverpool; a new "what good news" website in Brentwood; a four-year project to unpack the teaching of Vatican II in Arundel and Brighton; the creation of outreach leaflets and a 'Welcome Back' outreach Sunday in Hexham and Newcastle; new DVD materials addressing frequently asked faith questions from Plymouth; a successful pilgrimage and prison outreach programme from Salford; new faith sharing materials from Westminster for use in small groups; and much more.

Significant input was also given by Rev Professor Eamonn Conway, who attended the recent Synod on Evangelisation in Rome as an expert (October 2012). He shared insights from the Synod and Pope Francis' early Pontificate, as well as reflected on the opportunities and challenges

present in contemporary culture.

Rt Rev Kieran Conry, Chair of the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, hosted the event and said: "Professor Conway was exactly the right person for this gathering. He brought scholarship, insight, spirituality and a profound sense of priesthood. I think that we all felt privileged to have been able to share these days together, and it's not every meeting that you can judge in that way."

Julia Palmer said "Professor Conway is an inspiring and insightful speaker and he helped us to look at how we could take this ministry of evangelisation forward not only in our own Diocese of Nottingham but also in the UK. It was good to hear what other Dioceses were doing and to share something of the work we are doing in the Nottingham Diocese on the Crossing the Threshold Project, which is aimed at reaching out to lapsed Catholics."

Barbara Davies attended the meeting representing the Shrewsbury Diocese and said: "24 hours of prayerful reflection with people radically committed to the New Evangelisation. How could that not be inspiring and therefore invigorating? It was all very much an experience not of 'theory and practice', but of the 'spirit and practice' of the New Evangelisation, and filled us all with hope."

Meanwhile, Fr

James McAuley representing Portsmouth Diocese said: "I found our 24 hours together enriching and affirming. The Church IS mission and I pray that our time together will bear much fruit in the months and years to come."

This national gathering is bi-annual and aims to facilitate the sharing of evangelisation resources and expertise across the dioceses of England and Wales. It is coordinated by the Home Mission Desk on behalf of the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis.

Footnote: In our own Nottingham diocese



there are five parishes that are testing out resources designed to reach out to the non church going Catholics. Julia told us "We have a resource day for parishes on 7th December on this issue at Trinity School in Nottingham. Anyone interested is welcome to come just email [formation@nrcdt.org.uk](mailto:formation@nrcdt.org.uk) for details".

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

My name is Derek Williams. I live in a village outside Spalding in the extreme South East of the diocese, out on a limb so to speak. I have been working as a full time lay evangelist in the Catholic Church for ten years as of this month. Sadly the Church does not want to offer employment, which is fair enough, so all my work is self funded via the various groups I speak with over the course of the years. I have done a fair amount of evangelism within the diocese itself. Various seminars in parishes ranging from Holbeach near Spalding, to Brigg, several parishes in Nottingham, Mansfield and other places. My work takes me further afield but it is providential that I have been quite active in this diocese. I say providential because I do not really advertise my work, it tends to come through word of mouth, and

mainly via priests passing my details to other priests.

It has been suggested that it would be good for your readers to know about my work. In fact, at this moment I am on the sixth week of a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Holbeach parish which runs on Mondays. Every Tuesday night I also run the same seminar at a Pentecostal Church in Spalding (Lighthouse Pentecostal Church!). The Pastor of the Pentecostal Church is so pleased with what he has seen and the enthusiasm of his group that he has already invited me to run the same seminar this time next year.

Regards  
Derek Williams  
07941 600546